

HCS HB 560 -- SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

SPONSOR: Redmon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill requires school bus drivers who are 70 years of age or older to complete a CDL skills test and the driver's license exam on an annual basis in order to maintain their authority to drive buses.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will reduce unnecessary exams and require only those portions relevant to passenger health and safety and bus operation skills. Current testing requiring the memorization of hundreds of mechanical parts is not useful for either operation or safety purposes and potentially excludes many excellent bus drivers with perfect safety records.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Redmon and Donald Fowler, Fowler Bus Co Inc.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.